

[7 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

**Objections on National Mineral Policy**

3417. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the mineral rich States of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Rajasthan and Karnataka have voiced serious concern over the finalisation of the new National Mineral Policy, changes in the laws on mines and minerals, royalty issues and the strategy for capacity addition in the generation of power; and

(b) if so, the response of Government and the action proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) and (b) The Chief Ministers of mineral rich States have submitted a joint memorandum to the Central Government in which they have raised issues of giving preference to value adders in grant of mineral concession, grant of large areas under reconnaissance and prospecting licence, export of iron ore, reservation of mining areas for State PSUs and royalty rates on ad valorem basis on minerals. The issues raised in the memorandum are under consideration of the Government.

**Illegal mining activities**

3418. SHRI BHAGIRATHI MAJHI: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of illegal mining of Iron Ore in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action to stop these illegal activities;

(c) if so, how many such complaints has been registered by the Mining Department during last three years; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY): (a) As per available information, some instances of illegal mining of iron ore in Mayurbhanj District of Orissa have come to the notice of Government.